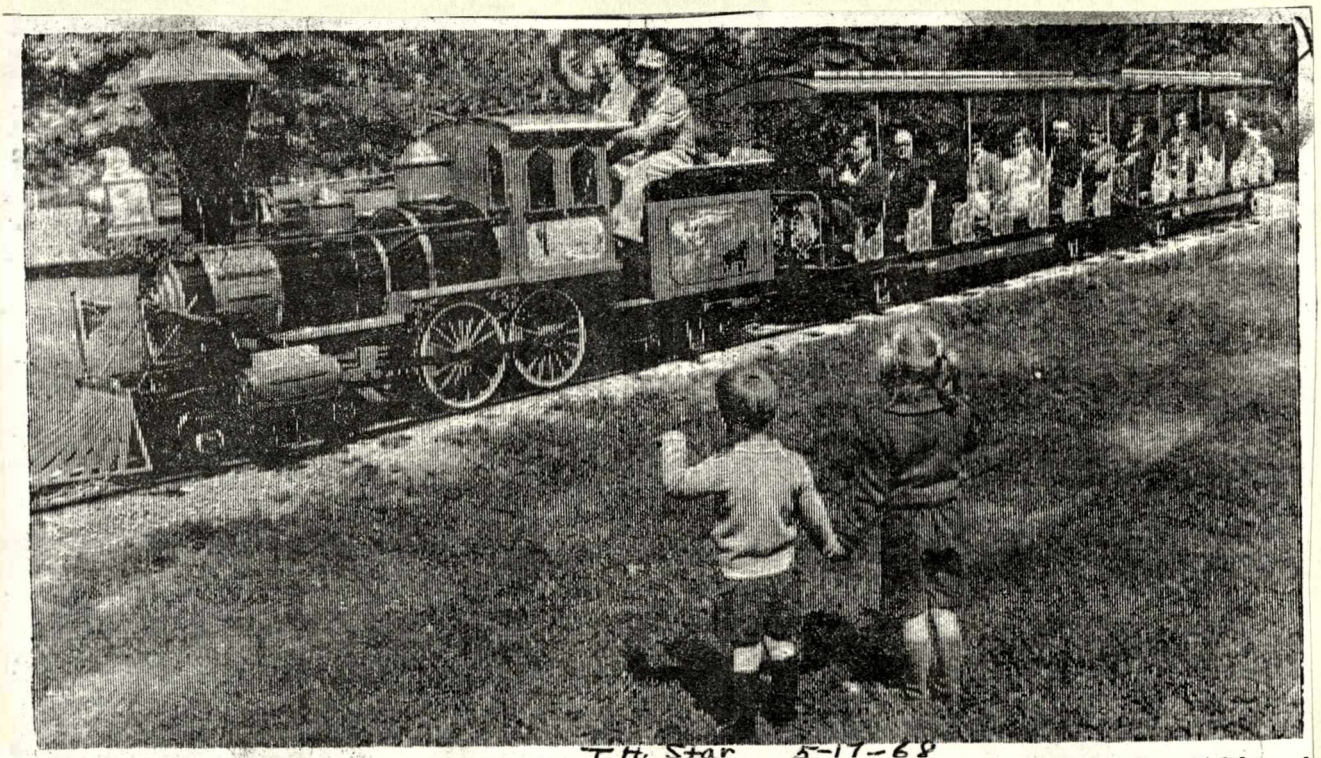
DEMING



T.H. Star 5-17-68

ALL ABOARD—The Spirit of Terre Haute took its first run Thursday around Deming Park loaded with city officials and members of The Spirit of Terre Haute, Inc., while two youngsters wait for their opportunity to ride the new choo-choo. (Photo by Kadel)

'All Aboard' Summons Kids To Deming Park

T.H. Parks

T.H. Star 5/17/68

BY FRED NATION
Star Staff Writer

The third edition of "The Spirit of Terre Haute" took to the tracks at Deming Park for the first time Thursday, heralding a new era in amusement railroading in the city.

Mayor Leland Larrison, members of the city park board and members of the Spirit of Terre Haute, Inc., took the first ride on the new train that chugged its way around 3,000 feet of track and through a covered bridge.

The new train is much larger than its two predecessors that only stood about three feet high. The train that took to the tracks Thursday stands more than six feet high.

+ + +

The locomotive resembles a steam engine of the early days of railroading in the United States. However, passengers who ride in the two open coaches won't have to worry about soot from any wood-burning engines. A gasoline engine powers this locomotive.

Smoke will stream out of the tall smokestack, but the smoke is only an imitation. The train is also equipped with bells, air whistles and a brass headlamp.

Joe Malooley, president of The Spirit of Terre Haute, Inc., said the new train cost about $27,000 and was purchased out of receipts from the previous train and merry-go-round at Deming Park.

Malooley and other members of the Vigo County Tavern Association purchased the first Spirit in 1949, with $4.500 the group raised with the assistance of Anton Hulman Jr.

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Ten years later, the original "Spirit" had to be replaced with a similar train at a cost of about $5,500. It ran until 1966, when the second "Spirit" finally chugged its last.

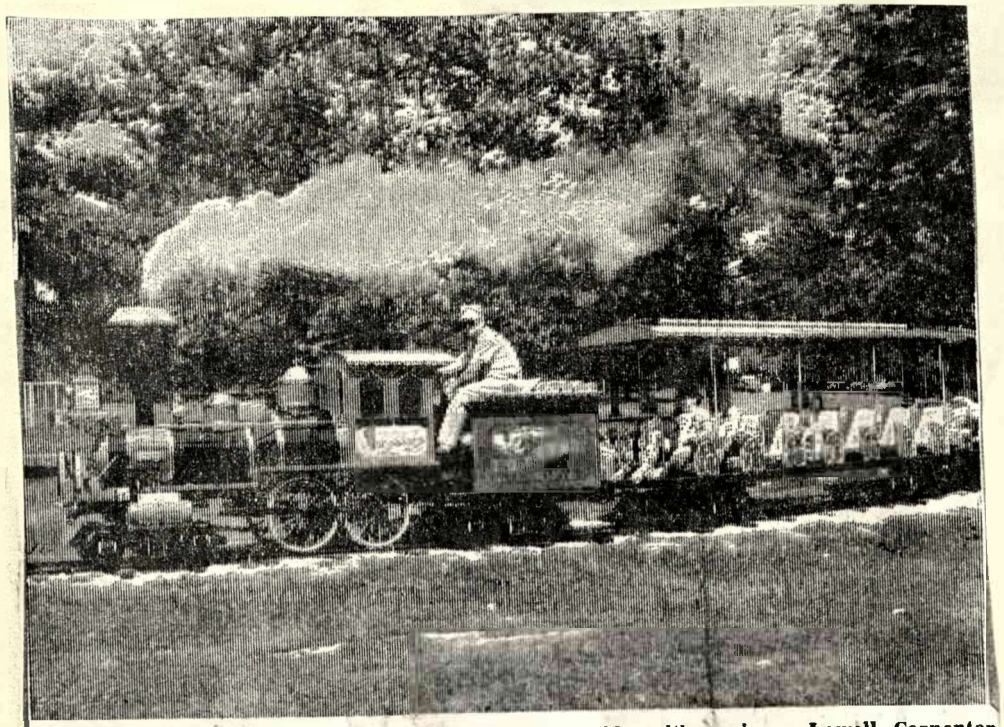
So the corporation decided to go all out and buy the biggest and best train available. And that's what they got.

Malooley said more trackage will be laid in the future to extend the train's route through a larger area of the park.

Serving with Malooley on the board of the Spirit corporation are Harold Harrison, Roy White, Ben King, Gertrude DePeugh and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Herbert Winterhalter.

Both Malooley and King served on the original committee, which also included as members Frank Moore, Red Baldwin and Jack Campbell.

The train will operate during the summer months. Charges will be 15 cents for children and 25 cents for adults. Proceeds will go into a fund to further improve train service in the park.



THE IRON HORSE — If you haven't yet taken a ride with engineer Lowell Carpenter on the Spirit of Terre Haute at Deming Park, why not make plans to do so soon? Hours of operation are from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The train does not run on Mondays. Photo by Martin.

DEMING PARK

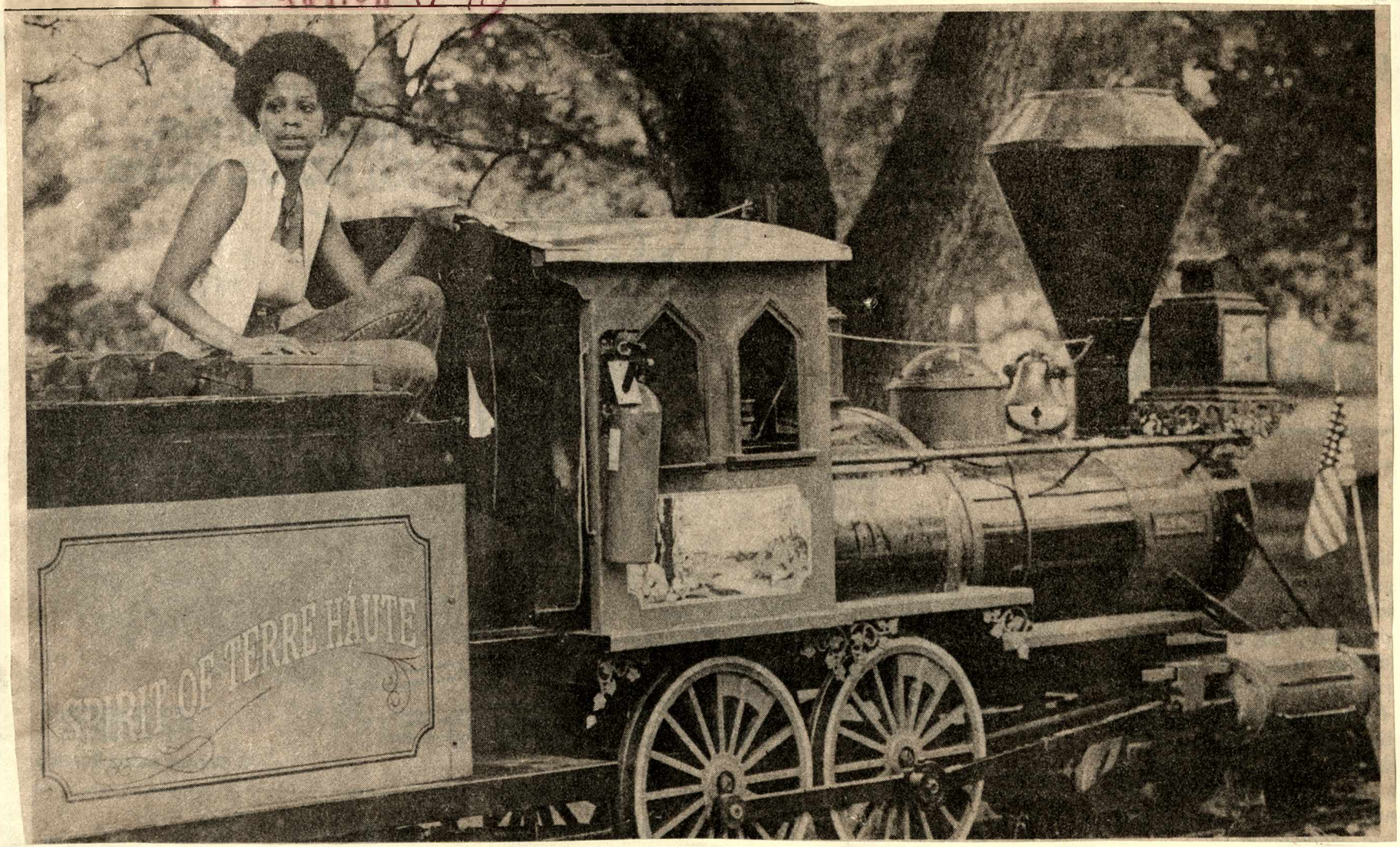
'The Spirit Of Terre Haute'

Engineer Donna Lewis was at the controls of "The Spirit of Terre Haute" as it ran its Deming Park course Sunday afternoon. The diesel-powered amusement ride had been out of service last summer with transmission problems. Lots of youngsters took advantage of the warm summer weather Sunday for a train ride in the park.

(Staff Photos: Mark Winkler)

June 23, 1980

Recreation (T. H.) S JUN 23 1980



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